

FORESTRY

Goals

Personal Use. Meet the personal use needs of people in the region within the productive capability of the land and limitations imposed by other important uses and resources.

Resource Management. Manage forests of the area to ensure long term productivity, continuous availability of forest products at reasonable cost, recognition and maintenance or enhancement of other public resources over the long term, and access for public use and enjoyment.

Protection from Destructive Agents. All forests in the area, private and public, will be protected from destructive agents, such as fire, insects, and disease, based on assessments of values at risk, benefits of fire, and protection costs in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, cooperative agreements, and fire management plans and this area plan.

Management Guidelines

A. Timber Salvage. Timber with commercial or personal use value should be salvaged from lands that will be cleared for other uses, such as transportation or utility corridors. This will be accomplished by adherence to the following guidelines.

1. For significant land clearing actions, the Division of Forestry will determine whether the timber is worth salvaging within the time frame of the proposed project. They will advise the Director of the Division of Land and Water Management on appropriate salvage methods.
2. Projects that involve clearing large areas of forested land will be planned far enough in advance to allow a reasonable period of time to conduct inventory and salvage of the timber.

B. Forest Practices Act. Guidelines for forest management in this plan assume compliance with the Forest Resources and Practices Act. That act and implementing regulations will guide timber harvest and regeneration and ensure the protection of non-timber resources. The guidelines in this plan apply to forest management in addition to those given by the Forest Practices regulations.

C. Wood Harvest for Personal Use. An important objective of forest management is to allow people to harvest house logs and firewood, including driftwood, from public land for their personal use. State land should be available for personal-use wood harvest, when consistent with management intent and guidelines for the unit (see also *Settlement* Guideline D-4, page 2-32).

D. Fire Management. Fire management practices, including prescribed burning, will be designed to be consistent with the land management policies stated in the area plan. These practices are described in the Alaska Fire Management Plans, which have been developed as part of the planning process for the Alaska Interagency Fire Management Council.

E. Other Guidelines Affecting Forest Management. Several other guidelines may affect forest management. See the following sections of this chapter:

- Coordination and public notice
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Lakeshore management
- Materials
- Public access
- Settlement
- Stream corridors and instream flow
- Subsistence activities and traditional uses
- Subsurface resources
- Trail management
- Transportation and utilities
- Wetlands management

Land Allocation Summary

Timbered lands are located primarily along river valleys in the upper Kobuk River area and the southeastern portion of the Seward Peninsula. Most harvested wood comes from Native corporation lands close to villages. Most state lands are located several miles away from villages. State lands are used as a source of timber only when there is a demand for higher quality timber, such as trees suitable for house logs, which are not available closer to the community.

Personal use permits are required for cutting standing trees for firewood and house logs on state land. However, because of the remoteness of the area, a permitting program for fuelwood has not been initiated in the Northwest Area. A few houselog permits have been issued in recent years in the Northwest Area.

There are no primary designations of state land for timber production in the Northwest Area because forest resources on state land are limited. Nevertheless, personal use of timber resources--including driftwood--for house logs and firewood, is very important to residents. Fourteen of 26 area communities are located in or near forested areas.

Forested state lands will continue to be available for public use. Where timber occurs on state lands in the planning area, forestry will be a secondary use. Harvesting may take place whenever compatible with the primary uses of the area. Management of state-owned forest land in the area under the Forest Practices Act, specifically the provisions dealing with multiple use and sustained yield, should allow continuation of forest resource production to meet user demand. Although there is very little inventory data available for the area, it is apparent that sustained yield levels of harvest are not being approached.